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J&K rolls out Aspirational Blocks Development Programme

Extends SRO-43 to NoKs of violence victims, approves 4 new Adtl Sessions Courts



LG Manoj Sinha chairing Administrative Council meeting at Srinagar on Wednesday.

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: For intensive and focussed development of the 44 most backward blocks of the Union territory, the Administrative Council (AC), which met here under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, approved the rollout of the prestigious 'Aspirational Blocks Development Programme'.

Farooq Khan and Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisors to the Lieutenant Governor, Dr.

Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, J&K and Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor attended the meeting.

The blocks identified under the Aspirational Blocks Development Programme are the most backward blocks of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir which require special focus to bring them at par with other blocks. The programme aims to improve development in terms of various socio-economic parameters like education, health and wellbeing; and overall living conditions of the people.

These Aspirational Blocks shall be developed through convergence of various ongoing UT schemes/programmes, and centrally sponsored schemes/programmes. The District Development Commissioners will be tasked with preparation of a suitable development plan, whereas, the Planning Development and

Monitoring Department will constantly monitor the district-wise progress of these blocks through a digital portal. Under the programme, the resources will be clearly delineated across various sectors of development - poverty, health & nutrition, education, and basic infrastructure, at the district level. Additionally, an amount of Rs. 1.00 crore will be provided to each block after fulfillment of defined criteria. The best practices implemented in the development of Aspirational Blocks will be acknowledged and duly replicated in other blocks towards ensuring an inclusive and equitable socio-economic development of the Union territory.

The Administrative also accorded approval for creation of four courts of Additional District

the Lieutenant Governor, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, J&K and Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor attended the meeting.

The decision has been taken in view of sharp decline in production and revenues from 2012-13 onwards. Over the loss making years, the company has been burdened by its own liabilities on account of salaries/bills raised by the contractors and various departments, CP Fund of employees, and GST liabilities.

Winding up of the loss-incurring PSU will open up the huge area of land measuring approximately 240 kanals appurtenant to the Khrew Plant which can be utilized as industrial estate by J&K SIDCO. The decision will assist the closing PSU in realizing revenue through payment of premiums by the prospective

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70 fresh COVID-19 cases in J&K, 9 in Ladakh

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday recorded 70 new cases of coronavirus, taking the infection count to 3,31,865, officials said.

The death toll from the pandemic remained unchanged at 4,431 as no fresh fatality linked to COVID-19 was reported from the Union Territory in the past 24 hours, they said.

Six of the new cases were from the Jammu division and 64 from the Kashmir division, the officials said.

They said Srinagar district recorded a maximum of 49 fresh COVID-19 cases, followed by four cases in Kupwara district.

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NIA raids in 7 districts in JEI terror funding case in J&K

JAMMU/SRINAGAR: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday conducted searches at 17 locations in seven districts of Jammu and Kashmir in connection with the Jamaat-e-Islami terror funding case, an official of the agency said.

The raids were carried out in Anantnag, Kulgam, Ganderbal, Bandipora and Budgam districts in the Kashmir division and Kishtwar and Jammu districts in the Jammu division of the Union Territory, a spokesperson of the NIA said.

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included the premises of office bearers and members of the JEI (Jamaat-e-Islami) and various incriminating documents and electronic devices were seized from the premises of the suspects," the agency said.

Earlier, the NIA had searched 61 places in 10 districts of Kashmir and four districts of Jammu during raids on August 8 and 9.

In February 2019, the Centre banned the JEI for five years under anti-terror laws on grounds that it was "in close touch" with militant outfits and was expected to "escalate secessionist movement" in the erstwhile state

of Jammu and Kashmir. A notification banning the group under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) was issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs after a high-level meeting on security chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Hundreds of JEI activists were arrested in a major crackdown across Jammu and Kashmir following the ban, which came just months ahead of the abrogation of the special status of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, and its bifurcation into union territories of Jammu and Kashmir

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Govt initiates process to wind up JK Cements 3rd Party Inspection Guidelines in road sector approved

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Administrative Council (AC), which met here on Wednesday under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, approved the proposal of Industries and Commerce Department regarding complete sale of Jammu and Kashmir Cements Limited through ascending e-auction from qualified bidders.

Farooq Khan and Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisors to the Lieutenant Governor, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, J&K and Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor attended the meeting.

The decision has been taken in view of sharp decline in production and revenues from 2012-13 onwards. Over the loss making years, the company has been burdened by its own liabilities on account of salaries/bills raised by the contractors and various departments, CP Fund of employees, and GST liabilities.

Winding up of the loss-incurring PSU will open up the huge area of land measuring approximately 240 kanals appurtenant to the Khrew Plant which can be utilized as industrial estate by J&K SIDCO. The decision will assist the closing PSU in realizing revenue through payment of premiums by the prospective

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Two more detained for raising Pro-Pak slogans

STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Two more people were detained by police on Wednesday for allegedly raising pro-Pak slogans in Samba district, following a T20 World Cup match between India and Pakistan, taking the total number of those detained to eight, officials said.

On Monday night, a case was registered and six people were detained in this connection. A senior officer of the district said, "Two

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Proud of Army, Sfs in protecting motherland: LG

STATE TIMES NEWS

BUDGAM: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Wednesday said he was proud of the Army and Security forces, carrying the great tradition of courage and valour to protect the motherland.

"Today, J&K is marching ahead towards peace, development and prosperity and it is a true reflection of the sheer grit and dedication of our brave security personnel", the Lt Governor said while speaking in a function held in commemoration of the 75th year of Air Induction of Indian Army to



eviet Pakistan forces from Kashmir.

The event was organized by Chinara Corps at Technical Airport Budgam.

Paying tributes to the martyrs of the October 1947 terror attack by the Pakistan

army, the Lt Governor laid a floral wreath at the war memorial and also honoured the NoKs of 'Saviours of Kashmir'.

The Lt Governor said that the historic Air landing Operation conducted by Indian Army & Air Force in face of the enemy and subsequent eviction of Pakistani forces was the first landmark military action of Independent India.

On this day, 75 years ago, the first Dakota aircraft with Lieutenant Colonel D.R. Rai and his warriors on board had reached Srinagar

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Villagers lost in snow traced in Shopian

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Two villagers, who were reported missing from the upper reaches of Rajouri during snowfall last week, were traced in a village in Shopian district on Wednesday, police has said.

Javed Shah of Targain and his relative Khadam Shah of Hasote-Chassana were reported missing on October 24 during a trip to Kashmir they carried out on foot with their sheep and goat, a police officer said.

The families of the two men lodged a complaint after they lost contact with them due to snowfall in the high altitude areas.

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FIR against 3 Kashmiri students for celebrating Pak's cricket victory

STATE TIMES NEWS

AGRA: Police here have registered an FIR against three engineering college students hailing from Kashmir for allegedly posting WhatsApp status celebrating the Pakistan team's victory against India in a T20 World Cup cricket match three days ago.

According to the FIR registered at the Jagdishpura

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SC appoints expert panel to probe Pegasus row

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court Wednesday appointed a 3-member panel of cyber experts to probe the alleged use of Israeli spyware Pegasus for surveillance of certain people in India, saying that the state cannot get a "free pass" every time the spectre of national security is raised and it cannot be the bugbear that the

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1,500 smart meters being installed per month in J&K

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Power Development Department is all set to achieve the highest ever capacity addition in both the distribution and transmission sectors in the UT this year. A total of 1420 MVA at 132 kV level and 1595 MVA at 220 kV level in the transmission sectors was set to be added this financial year. In the distribution sector, over 100 sub stations were to be completed this year under various schemes adding over 500 MVA capacity to the system. This was revealed at a meeting chaired on Wednesday by Principal

Secretary Power Development Department, Rohit Kansal to review the progress of various ongoing schemes in the UT.

The meeting was attended by Executive Director and CEO REC PDCL, R Lakshamanan, Executive Director Power Grid Kailash Rathore and other senior officers from Central PSUs besides Managing Directors and Chief Engineers of Transmission and Distribution Corporations of J&K.

'Our collective objective should be to ensure 24x7 power supply to all the con-

sumers of Jammu and Kashmir in the coming three years', the Principal Secretary stated while addressing the officers of all Power Corporations and CPSUs.

Outlining in detail the vision of the department to provide uninterrupted quality power supply to entire Jammu & Kashmir by the year 2025, Rohit Kansal said adding that to achieve this, we need to have a vision and a detailed plan for the coming three years. For this he stressed on the need for a detailed system study

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Ladakh standoff: Rajnath expresses confidence in finding peaceful resolution



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh speaking at the Army Commanders' Conference at South Block in Delhi.

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday expressed confidence that the ongoing talks between China and India for a peaceful resolution of the eastern Ladakh standoff will continue while Indian troops stand "firm" in the region.

In an address at a conference of the top Army Commanders, he said ensuring the availability of the best weapons, equipment and clothing to the troops braving extreme weather and "hostile forces" to defend territorial integrity is a national responsibility.

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The defence minister also commended the Army for its firm response to cross border terrorism.

"Commenting on the current situation along the Northern borders, the Raksha Mantri expressed full confidence that while troops are standing firm, the ongoing talks for peaceful resolution of crisis will continue," the defence ministry said in a statement. His comments came over two weeks after the 13th round of military talks between Indian and Chinese armies ended in a stalemate with both sides blaming each other for the impasse.

In a strong statement after the talks, the Indian

Shri Manoj Sinha
Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor
Jammu and Kashmir

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
 Max: 27.7°C Min: 14.4°C

Humidity
 Max: 87 Min: 62

Temperature (Srinagar)
 Max: 18.6°C Min: 4.2°C

Humidity
 Max: 87 Min: 63

Sunset: 17:47 Hours
 Sunrise: 06:45 Hours